




Speech By
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MEMBER FOR OODGEROO

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ADJOURNMENT

Harold Walker Jetty

 **Dr ROBINSON** (Oodgeroo—LNP) (6.06 pm): The Harold Walker Jetty at Dunwich is an iconic landmark on North Stradbroke Island, Minjerribah. Built in 1987 it has provided many lifelong memories for locals and visitors alike and is used for fishing and boating and to support sea rescue. Last year I was contacted by the family of Harold Walker and concerned community members who had been told that the government planned to demolish the jetty. The government did not properly consult the community before making that decision. They blamed the local council for the deterioration of the jetty and said that it was the council's problem.

The council, Dunwich residents and the wider Straddie community rejected the government's blame-shifting. A community campaign to make the government listen then started. A key figure in the community fight to save the Harold Walker Jetty from demolition by the Palaszczuk Labor government is the late Mr Walker's son Simon. Simon contacted me with his concerns that if the jetty went then his father's legacy might be forgotten. Harold Walker contributed much to the island community as the owner and operator of the Dunwich ferry service for over 20 years, serving not only locals but also tourists and guests who made lifelong memories on Straddie.

I am prouder than ever to represent Straddie after seeing the community rally to save what matters to them. Residents gathered signatures on a petition that I presented to parliament, wrote letters and supported Simon's call to restore and not demolish. In January we saw a peaceful protest where school students, children and families gathered to share what the jetty meant to them.

The transport minister finally relented under the weight of community pressure and agreed to restore the jetty, with \$750,000 being allocated to the restoration. However, two issues remain. First, will \$750,000 be enough? Simon Walker recently called me to thank me for my support, and I put that on the record today, but to also voice concern about what the replacement jetty might look like and if the funding is sufficient. Some believe that that amount is inadequate for the kind of structure that will do justice to both Harold Walker's memory and the community's needs.

Will the replacement jetty be like for like, the same size and with the same capacity for use? Will it allow for fishing, boating and sea rescue capacity as it has in years past or will it be a smaller fishing platform only? Simon, his family members and the Straddie community would like to hear from the minister on those matters.

Secondly, the Dunwich (Goompie) Master Plan, the government's secret master plan, must be made public as soon as possible and it must allow for proper community consultation. It needs to show how the jetty will be integrated into the plans for the Dunwich harbour.

In conclusion, the save-the-jetty campaign shows that Straddie people power does sometimes make bad governments listen and change their decisions. Hopefully there is more listening to come from a government that, until recently, has been stone-deaf to the needs of the residents of North Stradbroke Island, Minjerribah.